

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐  
no ☒

Property Name: Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church Complex Inventory Number: BA-3189  
Address: 5602-5606 Johnnycake Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no  
City: Catonsville Zip Code: 21207 County: Baltimore County  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West  
Property Owner: Wesley Memorial Methodist Church Tax Account ID Number: 1600000065  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 224 Tax Map Number: 95  
Project: Red Line Corridor Transit Study Agency: Mass Transit Administration  
Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.  
Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham Date Prepared: 7/28/2005  
Documentation is presented in: Vertical files, Maryland Room of the Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☐ Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended  
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no  
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Property and Justification:** *(Please attach map and photo)*

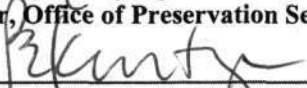
The Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church Complex is a group of three connected Colonial Revival-style buildings: a church sanctuary at the center, with a parsonage on the left and a fellowship hall/church school building on the right. The complex is located near the corner of Johnnycake Rd. and Baltimore National Pike (MD 40) and faces southwest. The property is set on a slight slope with lawns, a few shrubs, and some mature trees around the parsonage. The lot and buildings back up to Talbott Place on the northeast side.

The Wesley Memorial Church is a two-and-one-half-story, gable-front red-brick Colonial Revival church. It is sheathed in Flemish-bond brick with corner quoin detail, and has a slate roof. The gables have returns and the cornices are sheathed with narrow strips of vinyl. It has a square steeple tower centered on the front façade. The tower base projects a short distance from the main block and contains the main entrance, which is the only opening on the front of the building. The entrance is raised with steps, and features double-leaf three-paneled doors with a paneled transom above, set in a recessed opening with a wide molded surround. The steeple rises to a square wooden lantern with narrow inset vents and chamfered corners, and is surmounted by a tall metal-sheathed spire with a ball and cross finial. The lantern is sheathed with white vertical-grooved vinyl siding. The nave is approximately six bays deep, with twelve-over-twelve wooden windows on the sides. The areas above the windows had white

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MHT Comments:

  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

  
Reviewer, National Register Program

7/27/06  
Date

8/7/06  
Date

200601700

wood paneling originally, but are now sheathed with vertical vinyl siding. On both sides of the church, the bay closest to the front is windowless and has a ground-level covered passageway to the flanking buildings. Toward the rear of the church is another hyphen connecting it to the church school building, forming a courtyard.

The parsonage is a two-story, side-gabled Colonial Revival house, four bays wide and two bays deep. It is constructed of red brick in Flemish bond, and has a slate roof. The windows have six-over-nine original wooden double-hung sash on the first floor and six-over-six sash on the second floor. All front windows are flanked by paneled white wooden shutters. The front door is on the left side of the façade and is sheltered by a gable-front entry porch with wrought iron support columns. The front door is an original six-panel door. On the right side of the house is an exterior brick chimney. Reports from the time of construction indicate that the interior of the house features three bedrooms upstairs and a kitchen, living room, dining room, and pastor's study on the first floor. The pastor's study is located within the one-story passageway extending from the parsonage to the church. The passageway on this side is fully enclosed and is a flat-roofed brick structure with a wide band of vertical vinyl sheathing along the roofline. There is one six-over-six window with shutters on the left side and a center double door providing access to the study and the lower level of the church. This passageway was original to the complex.

The front passageway on the right side of the church is covered but only enclosed with brick at each end, where it connects to the church on the north and the fellowship hall on the south. The center section is open and supported by five pairs of square wooden piers. The fellowship hall and Sunday school building has two primary sections. The front section is a two-story side-gabled Colonial Revival structure, five bays wide. Like the other buildings, it has Flemish bond brick walls and a slate roof. The gables have full returns, and the cornice is sheathed with vertical vinyl siding. The original windows are intact and feature eight-over-eight sash on the second floor and eight-over-twelve sash on the first floor. Projecting from the front is a wide, one-bay extension with a flat roof and parapets. The center section, containing a single centered bay of windows with shutters, is covered with white stucco flanked by slightly projecting brick piers with horizontal detail resembling quoins. The remainder of the extension is plain brick with no windows. There are two bays of windows flanking the center section. The south end of the building has an oval attic vent, below which is a centered stucco panel containing the red-and-black symbol of the United Methodist Church. The rear section of the building is two stories with a flat roof and parapet. This section has both single and paired eight-over-eight windows and is four bays deep. It has a one-story flat-roofed extension near the southeast corner.

The Wesley United Methodist Church was formed in May 1953 by combining the congregation of the Harlem Park Methodist Church in downtown Baltimore with that of the Grove Methodist Church. Harlem Park was formed in 1875 and located at Harlem and Warwick Aves. Grove Methodist formed in 1857 and worshipped in an old stone Gothic church located where the present social hall and church school building now stand. Harlem Park was part of a common trend of white congregations moving out of the city due to massive population shifts following each of the World Wars. White citizens left the inner city to move to the suburbs, and blacks moved into formerly white city neighborhoods. White city churches in these neighborhoods saw their membership scatter. In order to retain members and survive, these churches usually sold their buildings to black churches and moved outward to follow their members, resulting in the construction of many new churches in developing suburbs during the 1920s-1960s. Wesley Memorial was somewhat unusual in that the city church combined with an existing suburban congregation to build a larger church.

The new complex was designed by architect A. Hensel Fink. Ground was broken next to the old Grove Methodist Church in March 1954. The new parsonage was already standing by this point. The cornerstone of the new church was laid in April 1955, and the new sanctuary was completed and consecrated that September. At some point following completion of the church, the old Grove Methodist was torn down to make way for the new fellowship hall, with kitchen and three Sunday School rooms. The current appearance of this building compared with historic photos and design sketches indicates that it was expanded somewhat

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beyond original plans.

As a complex, the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church has survived relatively intact, despite the adjacent commercial development on MD40. It is an example of the relatively generic post-World War II Colonial Revival architecture employed on many public buildings, and as such is not particularly distinctive. The appearance of this building group has been marred somewhat by the use of vinyl sheathing over wooden façade and steeple elements, although it retains its original windows. The church complex does not appear to meet any NRHP criteria considerations, and it is recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

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Wesley Memorial  
United Methodist  
← Church Complex  
MIHP# BA-3189

Baltimore  
West



BA-3189

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church Complex

Baltimore County, MD

Kate Farnham 23 32 347 44 - 2014

6/9/2005

MD SHPO

View of church + Sunday School wing to NE

#1 of 2



BA-3189

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church Complex  
Baltimore County, MD

Kate Farnham

BANDING NNN- 18314

6/9/2005

MD SHPO

View to NE of Parsonage

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